

Night 9

Highlights from Surah Al-Anfaal

This Surah was revealed in 2 A.H. after the Battle of Badr, the first battle between Islam and Kufr. Its name is derived from the war booty that Muslims seized from the kuffaar. With the help of Allah^{SWT}, Muslims won this battle against an enemy who outnumbered them 3 to 1.

Muslims are told that the victory was due to the help of Allah^{SWT} and not because of their bravery. Thus, the Muslims should have a strong faith in Allah^{SWT} and obey Him and His Messenger. Muslims have been told not to regard war booty as their right but as a bounty from Allah. Therefore they should accept with gratitude what they receive from the Messenger of Allaah (S).

The surah enjoins that the Muslims should refrain from ways of "ignorance" in peace and war and establish their moral superiority in the world.

Some of the notable verses:

- The believers are only those who, when Allâh is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses (this Qur'ân) are recited unto them, they (i.e. the Verses) increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord (Alone); Who perform *As-Salât* and spend out of that We have provided them.
- And fear the *Fitnah* (affliction and trial, etc.) which affects not (only) those of you who do wrong (but it may afflict all the good and the bad people)
- Your possessions and your children are but a trial and that surely with Allâh is a mighty reward.
- And make ready against them all you can of power, including steeds of war to threaten the enemy of Allâh and your enemy, and others besides whom, you may not know but whom Allâh knows
- Those who believe are allies to one another. And those who disbelieve are allies to one another

Highlights from Surah At-Taubah

As the name suggests, this surah discusses Taubah (repentance) and the condition of its acceptance. Another name of this surah is Al-Baraa'ah – meaning immunity (freedom) from the agreements with Mushriks. This is the only surah of the Qur'an that does not begin with Bismillah.

Historical Background

This surah was revealed after the Peace Treaty of Hudaibiyah (6 - 7 A.H). Soon after the Treaty, one-third of Arabia had accepted Islam. A powerful, well-organized and civilized Islamic State had been established and Islam was spreading in relatively peaceful atmosphere. Then, two events of historical significance took place.

The Conquest of Makkah (8 AH), and the Campaign of Tabuk (9 AH). After the successful outcome of these events Islam became dominant in Arabia and people began to embrace in large numbers. Even the Romans became convinced of the moral superiority of the Muslims.

First, the Conquest of Arabia (8 AH): The Prophet^{SAW} was sending missions to various clans to invite them to Islam. This infuriated staunch enemies among the Quraish and they decided to have a decisive encounter with Islam. But the Prophet^{SAW} preempted their move by a sudden invasion of Makkah in Ramadan 8 AH., and conquered it.

Second, the Campaign of Tabuk (Rajab, 9 AH): After the Treaty of Hudaibiyah, a Muslim delegation visiting clans living near Syria to give da'wah was attacked and 15 of its members were killed. Then a Christian governor of Basrah killed a Muslim ambassador sent by the Prophet (S)

After these incidents the Prophet^{SAW} became determined to make the territory adjacent to the Roman Empire safe and secure for Muslims. He sent an army of 3,000 towards the Syrian border and took on a Christian

army of 100,000. Despite held their ground despite the fact that they were facing an enemy that was 33 times larger in number.

There was a face off between Muslim army and the army of Roman Emperor Caesar, but it ended in without a fight. Romans withdrew from near Tabuk and when Muslims reached there, there was no enemy to fight. These incidents boosted the prestige of the Muslims and a large number of people began to accept Islam.

Important highlights of the surah:

1. All the treaties with the Mushriks were abolished and the Muslims would be released from the treaty obligations with them after a period of four months.
2. The guardianship of the Ka'abah would be placed permanently in the hands of the Believers.
3. The Mushriks would not be allowed even to come near the Ka'abah
4. Jihad was emphasized as a way to establish the sovereignty of the Islamic State. The object of Jihad was not to coerce non-Muslims to accept Islam, but to prevent them from forcing their religion upon others.
5. The kuffaar and mushrekeen were to be tolerated, provided that they paid Jizyah as a sign of their subjugation to the Islamic State.
6. If you have strong faith, smallness of number does not matter in fight against the enemy. Allah sends *Sakinah* (tranquility and reassurance) and help for those who have true faith.
7. With repentance Allaah^{SWT} removes anxiety and anger in hearts.
8. Zakaah is only for the Fuqaraa (poor who ask), and Al-Masakeen (poor who do not ask), those who collect Zakaah, for non-Muslims who are inclined towards Islam, to free the captives, those who are travelers, and to pay off the debts of the needy, and for the Mujahideen fighting in the cause of Allaah^{SWT}.